

Spring Environmental Educator (2025)

Instill wonder, scientific understanding, and love for coastal ecosystems with students from throughout Alaska. The **Spring Environmental Educator** will co-lead overnight educational programs with the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies (CACS) in semi-remote and semi-rustic locations around Kachemak Bay. This person will work alongside the School Program Coordinator and other environmental educators to lead programs, learn together about best practices in experiential, place-based education and to gain knowledge of Alaskan coastal ecology. Educational programs are well-developed and supported but provide opportunities for creativity and flexibility. Field sites feature rocky intertidal areas of outstanding diversity, a coastal forest trail system, and salt and freshwater wetlands.



Position runs from March 24 – May 21, 2025, with the opportunity to extend an extra week or transition into a summer position. \$19/hour DOE + shared housing is provided. (\$22/hour if you do not utilize CACS housing). Additional benefits include 1.5 weeks paid training and 40 hours of paid sick leave (including mental as well as physical health and family emergencies).

Core Duties:

- Co-lead day and overnight (2-3 days) coastal ecology programs for classes (K-12, but primarily 4th-6th grades) and youth groups at semi-remote locations.
- Lead coastal ecology environmental education activities such as tide pooling, forest ecology hikes, plankton tow, microscope lab, water quality monitoring, geology, and Alaska Native history & culture. Assist teachers in the facilitation of evening activities such as campfires and beach walks.
- Develop and ensure a safe, fun, and positive learning environment for students. Work cooperatively with teachers, administrators, parents, chaperones, and other CACS staff and volunteers to provide high-quality experiences for participants. Administer basic first aid and comfort homesick or otherwise upset participants.
- Facilitate group transitions between Homer Harbor and program locations, and orient groups to facilities.
- Maintain CACS program supplies, assist with upkeep of intertidal touch tanks, and perform routine facility and trail maintenance at the Peterson Bay Field Station and other relevant facilities, including snow removal, trail clearing, troubleshooting water system problems, and maintenance of the composting toilets.
- Provide photos for social media and advertising, and complete basic office tasks such as program data entry.

Qualifications

- Creativity, patience, curiosity, compassion, and enthusiasm.
- Experience working with youth in outdoor educational settings.

- Commitment to facilitating experiential, place-based, and inclusive learning experiences for youth.
- Ability to work in a highly collaborative work environment and live and work in a semi-remote location with school groups and other educators.
- Strong situational awareness and proactive approaches to maintenance needs and group dynamics.
- Willingness to learn on the job and to adjust and adapt readily to changing circumstances (such as weather, boat scheduling, group needs, etc.)
- Knowledge of or strong interest in learning more about basic intertidal, marine, and forest ecology.
- Strong communication skills, with the ability to provide clear, concise directions, communicate complex science concepts, and facilitate reflective discussion.
- Commitment to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion in environmental education and willingness to understand race, class, gender, and other equity issues to create a more inclusive program.
- Dedication to our vision of healthy ecosystems, engaged and connected communities, and inspired environmental stewards.
- Ability to receive and give direction and feedback on a variety of topics.
- Demonstrated good judgment and experience with risk management in challenging settings, including first aid and CPR certification (with preference for Wilderness First Aid or Wilderness First Responder certification).

We've left our list of desired qualifications flexible in recognition of the many forms of knowledge and experience that can exist both within and outside of typical employment or academic pathways. If you are passionate about the work and think you could do it well, please apply!

A Little More About Our Organization (and our Equal Opportunity Employer Statement)

We are a small but mighty non-profit made up of 10-30 staff. We are enthusiastic about the natural world, and care for each other with attention, creativity, and compassion. [Learn more about our organization here](#). CACS recruits, employs, trains, compensates and promotes regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, class, veteran status and other protected status as required by law. We also recognize that the field of environmental education has long excluded Black, Indigenous, and People of Color as well as people from working class backgrounds, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups. We know that the land on which we now teach has long been and continues to be stewarded by Alaska Native peoples, particularly the Sugpiaq and Dena'ina. We believe that these communities must be centered in the work we do and that environmental education will be stronger and richer with more diverse perspectives. We welcome your unique skills, cultural perspectives, and strengths and recognize how they benefit our community. We strongly encourage people with these identities or who are members of other historically excluded communities to apply for positions with CACS. You are welcomed to self-identify in your cover letter, if you feel comfortable doing so. Please contact Katie Gavenus (katieg@akcoastalstudies.org, 907-235-1974) with any questions or concerns.

To Apply: Please submit a **cover letter, resume, and contact information for 3 references to**

jobs@akcoastalstudies.org. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis with a priority deadline of November 25, 2024. In your 1-page cover letter, please explain why you are interested in this position and describe the relevant work, academic, and/or life experience that you will bring to this position. Please indicate in both the cover letter and email subject line the position for which you are applying.